

**Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form**

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4369

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 706 North Howard Street
and/or common Jamgotch Co. Oriental Rugs

2. Location

street & number 706 N. Howard Street ☐ not for publication
city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district Seventh
state Maryland ☐ county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Henry and Alice Kachadour
street & number 706 N. Howard Street
city, town Baltimore telephone no. MD 21201
state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds Baltimore City Courthouse JFC942
street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 liber 49
city, town Baltimore folio MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title
date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local
depository for survey records
city, town state

7. Description

Survey No. B-4369

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☒ unaltered
☐ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 2

This circa 1850 building is part of a double house attached to 704 N. Howard Street to the south, and it has a partywall neighbor to the north. It is three stories tall and three bays wide. The pressed brick is laid in stretcher bond with thin mortar joints. This Italianate building has a late Art Deco first floor facade. The street frontage is 23' and the depth 150'.

The facade of the first story was substantially altered circa 1930-1940 into a vitrolite-clad storefront. A horizontal band of plate glass windows are set off with black vitrolite panels below and white vitrolite panels above. The centered, recessed glass door has rounded bullnose corners. The Moderne sweep of the entrance and the use of vitrolite point to a circa 1930s date.

The second and third stories each have three evenly spaced windows with wooden lintels of a flat fillet and back band. The windows are not original. The second-story windows are a pair of casements divided into four horizontal lights. The third-story windows are modern 1/1 sash with snap in 6/6 mutins.

It is interesting to note that while this building is part of a double house, the second and third story windows do not align with the neighbor.

The cornice is the same as its attached neighbor. It projects slightly and has a back band, an ogee profile molding below, and a dentil course. A five-string course of bricks projects below the cornice as well. Unlike 704 N. Howard, a second band of projecting bricks runs underneath the first.

A back building extends perpendicularly from the south bay of the back of the house. It is two and one-half stories and one bay wide. The south side of the back building is attached to the north side of the back building of 704 Howard Street, forming a complete two-bay, gabled structure. A modern warehouse/garage has been added to the back wall.

The interior is partially accessible. It consists of a large front room with a squared arch opening to a back passage hall containing a staircase. A large, triangular profile cornice runs around the north and south walls and serves as a shelf or picture molding. A fireplace and flue along the west end of the north wall has been covered over. The squared arch opening into the back room is set within a recessed arch on the plaster wall. The passage hall in the back room has a fine wooden stair case with two squared newel posts and squared balustrades. The staircase projects into the room from the center of the back (west) wall. It rises to a landing on the west wall where it turns towards the south and rises along the west wall to a second landing where it turns east and continues up to the second floor. A door at the first landing leads to the back building behind.

8. Significance

Survey No. B-4369

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates _____ Builder/Architect _____ unknown

check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☒ C ☐ D
and/or

Applicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ G

Level of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☒ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building is a good example of mid-nineteenth-century residential architecture and of mid-twentieth-century commercial architecture. The architectural design of this three-story, three-bay building is a good example of a late Greek Revival/early Italianate double house. The construction of double houses was a common way of limiting the amount of financial risk to the speculative builder, since the amount of money invested was minimized by the relative smallness of the project. The two three-bay units of this 704-106 North Howard Street unit, however, are fairly well-to-do examples of urban housing types.

The dwelling may have originally been a shop-house. The presence of dwellings, or possibly combination shop-houses indicates the residential character of the neighborhood in the early nineteenth century. During the early transformation to a shop-house form (perhaps always functionally part of the house, yet not architecturally expressed until later) the recessed entrance received a new architectural treatment on the facade exterior. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "the rapid growth of commerce and manufacturing after independence led to a proliferation of the shop-house form in both new buildings and existing ones altered so that their commercial purpose was clearly indicated on the exterior. Shop-houses prevailed in emerging commercial centers of cities and towns alike through the early decades of the 19th century. Examples can still be seen in areas that have not experienced radical change, even though the shopfronts themselves have almost always been altered. . . the upper section retaining a domestic character."¹ The interior retains certain domestic hallmarks: the large parlor and the eye-catching winding staircase against the back wall.

The Art Deco or Moderne style of the facade articulates the 1930s taste for commercial architecture. The use of new surfacing materials, such as vitrolite, combines with turn-of-the-century structural abilities of steel framing to open up the first story

¹ Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 24.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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F

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaw, Architectural Historianorganization CHAP, Room 1037date December 18, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Streettelephone 301-396-4866city or town Baltimorestate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

B-4369
706 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD
Section 8 Significance
8.1

into a large glass window wall. The recessed entrance is a common feature to this period; the recess permits additional display cases on either side of the vestibule. The black and white vitrolite panels are typical of the streamlined phase of Art Deco design where the emphasis is on reflective, smooth wall surfaces and simple geometric shapes. This facade is particularly noteworthy because of the streamlined, bullnose corners of the entrance.

The preservation of this building indicates the lessening real estate pressures on the upper stretches of North Howard Street during the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries, both periods when much remodelling or rebuilding was undertaken. Longstreth continues, "the gradual abandonment of the shop-house as the dominant form of commercial architecture was due to the ever-increasing demands for trade and professional services along with a corresponding increase in land values, all of which fostered the design of buildings used entirely for commercial purposes."² The survival of this building, and indeed the several Greek Revival/Italianate houses on the block, is rare within the historical development of the commercial district and points to the marginal status of the 700 block of Howard Street. The alterations to the back buildings indicate some concession to later commercial needs. The period dwellings have become a contributing factor to the ambiance of Antique Row.

² Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street, pp. 24, 29.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:
Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

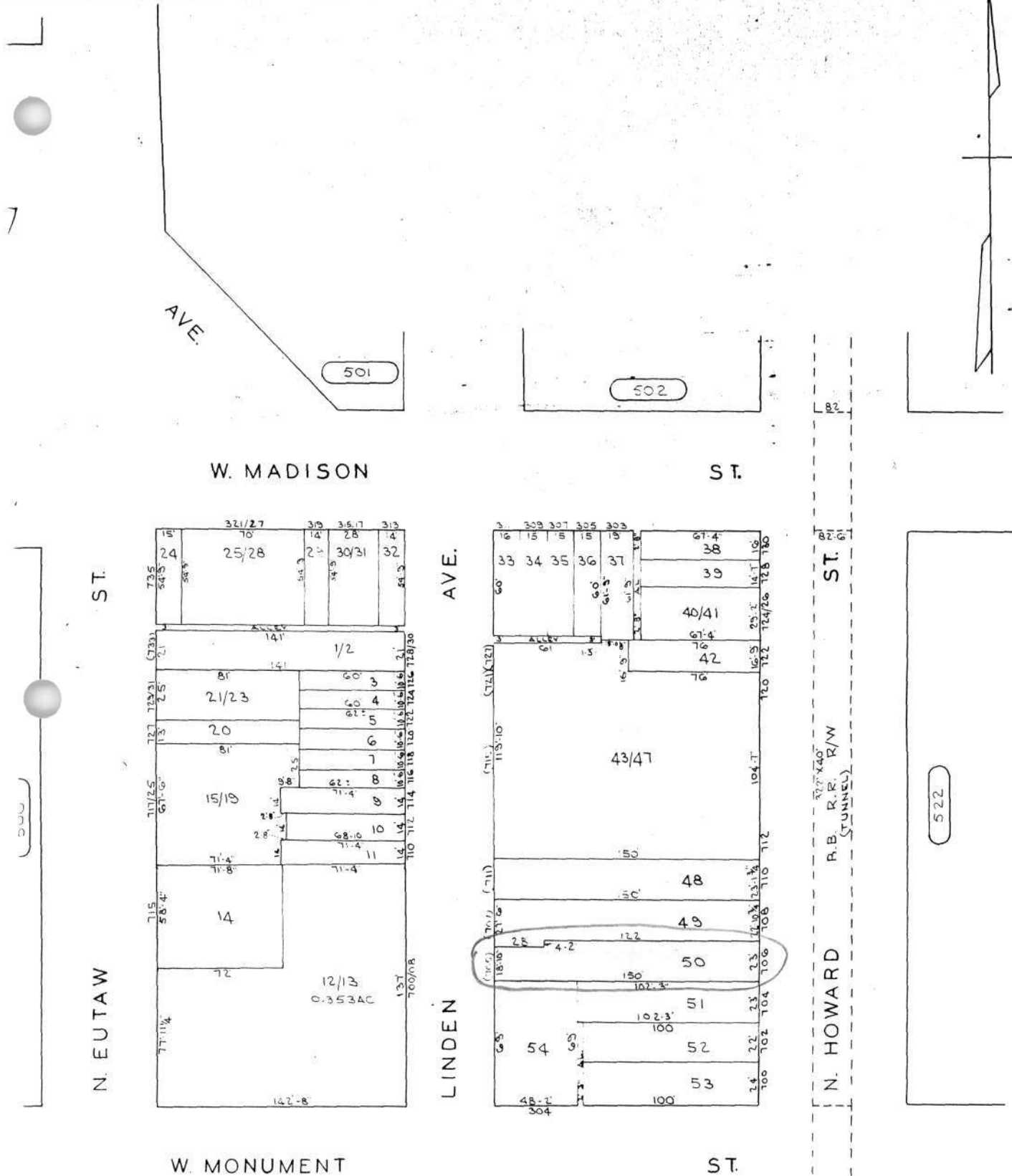
Historic Function and Use:
Residential/Commercial

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

OTS 1/2-12/13, 18/19-25/28, 30/31, 32, 40/41: S4 PER DEED'S & PLS, CSM 85-231-233

B 4369



NOTE: FOR OLD CONDITIONS SEE SHEET-2

SHEETS IN SET-2
-SHEET-1-

530

NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76(d) OF THE CITY CHARTER IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 11 SECTION 10

BLOCK 521

SCALE 1"=50'

DATE DEC. 1984



B-4369

706 N. Howard St

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade east elevation, plus
flanking buildings

1/2



B-4369

706 N. Howard St.

Baltimore, MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade detail

2/2